

India is not one country and it is not one nation. It is a multinational state put together by the British for administrative convenience. India is a vestige of colonialism. India has 18 official languages and there are 17 freedom movements within its borders. The fundamentalist Hindu ruling BJP government is on record that anyone living in India must either be a Hindu or subservient to the Hindus. This is not acceptable to the Sikh Christian, or Muslim minorities.

India has unleashed a reign of terror on the minorities. In 1984, the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion, and 38 other Gurdwaras and killed over 20,000 people during that attack throughout Punjab. India demolished the Babri mosque in Ayodhya, the most revered mosque in India, and it is planning to build a Hindu temple on that site. Similarly, Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools have also been demolished. Christians have also seen the murder of priests, rape of nuns, the murder of a missionary and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by burning them alive while they slept in their jeep and other atrocities. Now the government plans to expel his widow from the country.

Last month, Indian soldiers were caught red-handed attempting to burn down a Gurdwara and several Sikh homes in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim townspeople overpowered the troops and prevented them from carrying out this atrocity. In March 2000, while former President Clinton was visiting India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura in Kashmir and tried to blame the massacre on alleged militants. In November 1994 the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

Indian security forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations and published in *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. Over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. Since 1984, India has engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian police and security forces and secretly cremated. The Indian Supreme Court described this campaign as "worse than a genocide." General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state." U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Germany."

"The people and nations of the subcontinent are entitled to freedom and self-determination," said Dr. Aulakh. "It is time for India to do the democratic thing and end the repression," he said. "It will help the Indian government and the people of India to give freedom to all the nations of South Asia," he said. "As soon as it happens, the South Asian nations can make a South Asian economic market parallel to the European Economic Community where the nations are independent but joined economically, which benefits every member," he said. "It will also include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and others. This will reduce tensions and the nuclear threat in this dangerous region and will benefit all the people of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

HONORING EUDORA WELTY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi has lost one of its most treasured authors. We all mourn the passing of Eudora Welty and as Mississippians, we celebrate her accomplishments and her love of our state and its people. She is recognized around the world as a Pulitzer Prize winner and an ambassador for Mississippi by sharing her vivid descriptions of its people and places so that others might learn about our state through her writings.

Ms. Welty won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for her work titled "The Optimist's Daughter". She was presented with numerous other honors and awards including the National Book Award for fiction in 1971, the National Medal for Literature 1980 Book Award, and the National Medal of Arts in 1987. She was the first living writer ever to be included in the prestigious Library of America series in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize and honor Ms. Welty for her outstanding literary achievements and awards. While we are all saddened by her death, we celebrate her life and her concern for the people of Mississippi and all of America. Her writing shows the care and concern she had for her fellow man. Ms. Eudora Welty will truly be missed by all of us.

TRIBUTE TO MARANDA PHILLIPS HOLMES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes of Charleston, South Carolina, a recent recipient of a National Jefferson Award. Mrs. Holmes is greatly admired for her outstanding community and public service. I join the citizens of Charleston County in expressing our deepest gratitude for everything she has done and continues to do.

Mrs. Holmes, who is often known as "Mother Teresa," has been a church and community volunteer for more than forty years. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Neighborhood Housing Service Commission where she helped provide loans and grants to those wishing to renovate their homes. She is an extraordinary person and throughout her life has made extraordinary contributions to her church, and the politics, and social welfare of her community.

Mrs. Holmes has been the recipient of 154 awards that reflect her lifelong dedication to community improvement. The American Institute—an organization founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beale—presents this prestigious award annually. The award seeks to recognize individuals for their outstanding community and public service. WCSC-Channel Five, a local television station, produced a thirty-minute documentary highlighting the contributions on Mrs. Holmes and two other National Jefferson Award recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes for the

incredible service she has provided for the citizens of her community. The world is a better place because of her years of distinguished service, and she has certainly earned the honor this notable award recognizes. The citizens of Charleston County and I congratulate Mrs. Holmes on her outstanding accomplishments and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on July 23 I was necessarily absent and was not able to vote on three recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 2137—Criminal Law Technical Amendments Act of 2001—Yes; H.R. 1892—Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001—Yes; S. 468—James Corman Federal Buildings Designation—Yes.

ON THE ANOINTMENT OF REVEREND DR. HUBERT BANKS AS BISHOP

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Reverend Dr. Hubert Banks on his elevation to the Office of Bishop in the Pentecostal Deliverance Tabernacle Worship Center in Ridgewood, New Jersey. On July 29, 2001, Reverend Dr. Banks will be consecrated as Bishop, one of the highest levels in his faith, at the Gilmore Memorial Tabernacle in Paterson, New Jersey. Reverend Dr. Banks has devoted his life to his faith, community, his family, and to ministering throughout the world. He is truly an exemplary man of faith and we are fortunate to have him serve our northern New Jersey community.

Reverend Dr. Banks has faithfully ministered since 1985, however his involvement with the Church began when he was twelve years old. A graduate of Ridgewood High School, he has served as Director of various youth, senior, and state choirs and worked actively with youth faith groups. His outstanding leadership and devotion brought him to the position of deacon while continuing his work with a men's chorus. At this point, Reverend Dr. Banks was also named Board Chairman of the Allene Gilmore Day Care Center.

In 1980, Reverend Dr. Banks was licensed into ministry as an Evangelist by the United Christian Church and Ministerial Association. One year later, he was ordained and went on to found the Pentecostal Deliverance Ministry. Reverend Dr. Banks then brought his spiritual leadership overseas as he spent time ministering in Israel. Since that experience, he has spent extensive time doing evangelistic work throughout Africa in Venda, Malawi, and Johannesburg. In 1990, Reverend Dr. Banks was promoted to District Elder in the Northern New Jersey region and received his Doctorate